at nothing, saying to them in substance: "You are not worth thirty cents." Jehovah says to "Christendom": "What a great price you have set upon me and my message of goodness to you!" His faithful witnesses continue to deliver his testimony and, when done, report: "I have done as commanded." Jehovah broke off relationship with Jerusalem and destroyed that city. He has broken off relationship with "Christendom" and will destroy that organization. These things were foreshadowed by the breaking of the staves Beauty and Bands. These things were written aforetime for the comfort of those now on earth who love Jehovah.

[19] Jehovah is the Master of the Zechariah class, and therefore the price is Jehovah's money. Hence the Lord directs Zechariah to prophesy: "And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord." (Zech. 11:13) Other translations of this particular prophecy read: "So I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them in the house of Jehovah, into the treasury" (*Roth.*); "unto the treasurer." (*Leeser*) Jehovah is "the potter". Many scriptures support this conclusion. The potter is the one who forms or creates. "But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." (Isa. 64:8) The same Hebrew word rendered "potter" is rendered "former", "formed" and "fashioned". (Gen. 2:7, 8, 19; Jer. 1:5; Isa. 43:1, 7, 21) Christ and his body members were "fashioned" by Jehovah [formed by the Potter]. "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Ps. 139:16) Jesus is the chief understudy of the Great Potter, Jehovah.—John 1:3.

[20] In bargaining the price for Jesus the Jewish clergy really fixed the price of Jehovah and his service to them. (John 5:23) No wonder the Lord Jehovah ironically says, as stated by the prophet: "The magnificent price at which I had been valued by them!" (*Roth.*) This is ironically called "'the precious price' at which the divine care was valued". (*Leeser,* margin) How insignificant is this when compared with the language of the psalmist: "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him; (for the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever;) that he should still live for ever, and not see corruption." (Ps. 49:7-9) The taking of the silver by Zechariah and casting it to the potter does not exactly foreshadow Judas' accepting the blood money. It was Jeremiah who foretold that. (Matt. 27:3-10) Judas cast the money down in the temple, the same place where Zechariah cast the money. Jehovah is now in the temple, and the receiving of the money from "Zechariah" bears testimony against those who do the pricing, and which therefore calls for the same action by the Great Potter against the "sheep merchants" who would have none of the service of Jehovah's faithful witnesses; and therefore, they having been warned, 'their blood is upon their heads.' (Ezek. 3:19; 33:2-5) "Even so will I break this people, and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again." (Jer. 19:10, 11) Jehovah thus pictures the breaking of the "sheep merchants". (See Ps. 2:9; Isa. 30:12-14; Rev. 2:26, 27) The action of Zechariah in casting the money into the temple also seems to picture Jehovah's witnesses who have been priced by Christendom's "sheep merchants"; and then Jehovah's faithful witnesses submit their case to their heavenly Father, presenting before him the evidence and in effect saying: "I have done as thou hast commanded me."—Ezek. 9:11.

[21] Zechariah then broke the staff, Bands, or, Binders, which pictured the covenant for the kingdom. "Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel." (Zech. 11:14) The breaking of the brotherhood between the ten tribes of Israel and the tribe of Judah after the death of Solomon was due to their unfaithfulness to the kingdom covenant and to idolatry on the part of the reigning house of Solomon (1 Ki. 12:19-24; 11:4-13), and also to the refusal on the part of the ten tribes to longer submit to God's will concerning the kingdom covenant. (Gen. 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:4-17; Ps. 89:3, 4, 35-37) Israel refused to be ruled by the house of David with whom the kingdom covenant had been made. Likewise in the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah, the breaking of the covenant with "organized Christianity" is shown in the breaking of the stave Bands, or, Binders. Catholics and Protestants and others have assumed to be in the covenant to do the will of God and in the covenant for the kingdom. Those who form "organized Christianity", so called, have broken that covenant by idolatry or Devil worship, making themselves a part of Satan's organization, and by refusing to be submissive to the requirements of the "Lion of the tribe of Juda", which refusal reached an emphatic climax in the endorsement of the League of Nations, in 1919, by the Church Federation. There they took a positive stand in opposition to Jehovah and his kingdom. These, together with all who have rejected the Lord Jesus at his coming to the temple, have broken the covenant with Jehovah, and no longer could he shepherd that rebellious flock. The book *Vindication* deals fully with this matter. The time when Zechariah, God's faithful remnant, figuratively broke the staff Bands was at the adoption of the resolution on July 26, 1931, at which time *Vindication* and other like kingdom messages were published and served upon the followers of "Christendom". The pouring out of the "seven last plagues", from 1922

to 1928, did not move "Christendom" and other professed followers of Christ to repentance; hence the breaking point came in 1931. It was at that time that the remnant disclaimed all brotherhood relationship with those rejecting the kingdom, and this they did by receiving and adopting the "new name" which Jehovah gave them. The enemy has falsely charged Jehovah's witnesses with changing their name for the purpose of deception. This is in keeping with the action of Satan's organization. God himself gave the new name and foretold this long ago, and the faithful ones, as Zechariah did, merely carried out his will which he had long ago declared should be done. Thus receiving the new name, and breaking all relationships with those who oppose the kingdom, the faithful remnant submit their case to Jehovah, declaring themselves wholly for his kingdom and that they have nothing in common with any organization that has to do with Satan. (2 Cor. 6:15-18) After having broken the staffs "Beauty" and "Bands", then the Lord commanded Zechariah to take the instruments of the "foolish shepherd [worthless shepherd, *Roth.*]". (Verse 15) These instruments are the tools or equipment for service. The former holders thereof having forfeited their right to use them because of having become foolish, that is to say, perverse, and failing to perform their duties and obligations, such are not permitted on the "highway", and their opportunity for service is taken away by the faithful ones. (See Isaiah 35:8, *A.R.V.*) This part of the prophecy applies to the "evil servant" class, "the man of sin", described by Christ Jesus in Matthew 24:48-51; 25:26-30; Luke 19:24-26. "The fool shall be servant to the wise of heart." (Prov. 11:29) *The Watchtower* of February 1 and March 1, 1923, specially called attention to the transfer of the kingdom interests or "goods" of the shepherd from the foolish to the "faithful and wise servant" class. It was then known by the remnant, the "faithful servant" class, that the Lord was at the temple; but the foolish servant rejected the truth, showing that the temple is not for them. The remnant immediately responded to take up the instruments that the Lord had taken from the foolish ones and to use them to his praise.

22 When called to the kingdom and when entering the Lord's service, these shepherds were not then foolish, but they became foolish, worthless and of the idol-worshiping class at the close of the Elijah work, and others became foolish by following in their same course. The Lord had no further use for this 'worthless servant' class. Hence he caused Zechariah to prophesy: "For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off [that are hidden, *margin*], neither shall seek the young one [those that be scattered, *R.V.*], nor heal that that is broken [and the fractured will he not bind up, *Roth.*], nor feed that that standeth still; but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws [hoofs] in pieces."—Zech. 11:16.

23 It is the "great multitude" that are "hidden" or lost sight of in the prison houses, or church systems, and that need the message of the kingdom; and the foolish or worthless servant does not visit them. The "young" as to knowledge of God's Word and its meaning are the "scattered" ones, straying among the organizations of "Christendom" and searching for what satisfies. The "fractured" ones are such as have sustained injury by contact with Satan's organization. None of these the slothful or foolish are permitted to serve. "The weak will he not nourish." (*Roth.*) Those 'standing still', hence making no progress in knowledge, are the ones weak because of lack of spiritual food, convenient for them, and which they fail to feed upon. The slothful or foolish servant does not go from house to house with convenient food in hand to teach the people concerning the kingdom, but, instead, opposes that which the Lord has provided. Like wild beasts, such as a wolf or a lion, they have attacked God's flock, while serving themselves. Like a cat-faced animal, they mislead many by indulging in good words and fair speech to deceive the hearts of the simple, and thus they willfully feed their own bellies. From these the faithful must be entirely separate.—Rom. 16:17, 18; Phil. 3:18, 19; 2 Pet. 2:3.

24 When the Chief Shepherd appears at the temple it is a time of woe for the foolish, good-for-nothing, worthless shepherds; hence says the Lord's prophet: "Woe to the idol shepherd [*R.V.*, worthless shepherd] that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye; his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened." (Zech. 11:17) The foolish servant becomes unprofitable, wicked and slothful. (Matt. 25:30) As an "idol servant" he is a thing of vanity and, like an idol, seats himself as a god (idol), claiming to be as God. (Jer. 10:8, 15; 51:17, 18; 2 Thess. 2:4) Jehovah commanded Ezekiel to prophesy woe unto such shepherds. (Ezek. 34:1, 2; see *Vindication*, Book Two) The prophet then tells the course of this foolish servant class, to wit: Those making up the 'worthless servant' class leave the flock of God as soon as they find out that they will not be permitted to boss the Society or organization of Jehovah's sheep. Even before they withdrew themselves from the presence of God's flock they were against his kingdom interests because of their selfishness, and in this condition the Lord found them when he came to the temple. They leave the flock and draw others away after them by speaking perverse things. (Acts 20:30) "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit." (Jude 19) Beginning in 1917, and from that time forward, those who go to make up this worthless servant class have followed such selfish and wicked course.